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The above data are presented as a preliminary study of the results of the first year's registration of divorces in Michigan. A more complete analysis will be presented in the *Michigan Registration Report* now in press. There is certainly room for hope, when the system shall have become thoroughly established and the reporting officers have attained greater familiarity with the duties required, that some very valuable results will be obtained.

CRESSY L. WILBUR.

Division of Vital Statistics,
Department of State,
Lansing, Michigan, July 25, 1898.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following circular letter has been sent by a committee of the American Public Health Association to registration offices of foreign countries, and to all state and municipal registration offices, boards of health, medical, pathological, statistical, actuarial, and other societies, and individuals making use of mortality statistics in the United States:—

The American Public Health Association at its meeting at Ottawa on September 28 to 30, 1898, recommended the adoption of the Bertillon classification of causes of death, a system reported to the International Statistical Institute at the session held at Chicago, 1893. The Conference of State and Provincial Boards of Health of North America also recommended the adoption of this system at the meeting held at Detroit, August 10 to 11, 1898.

Provision is necessary in adopting a system of classification of causes of death for regular periodical revisions in order to maintain it abreast of the advances of medical science. A plan for such revision has received the approval of the American Public Health Association, embracing the countries of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, and has also been accepted by the statistical service of France. This plan provides for the completion of the revision, with the coöperation of all countries using this system, by the year 1900, and its promulgation in connection with the session of the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography to be held at Paris

in that year. This will enable the mortality statistics of the next century to be begun on a uniform basis.

It is desired that as many countries as possible signify their intention to make use of this international system, and take an active part in the work of revision. The conduct of the work in each country will be vested in a representative commission of three members, one of whom will act as the National Secretary.

In connection with this work of revision the Committee of the American Public Health Association on Demography and Statistics in their Sanitary Relations is preparing a pamphlet showing the present form of the Bertillion system. This list is to be used as a basis of reference in suggesting changes from the present form.

The members of the commission for the three countries represented in the American Public Health Association have been appointed by the President of the Association with the approval of the Executive Committee as follows:—

Dr. Emmanuel P. Lachapelle, Montreal, P. Q.	}	CANADA.
Dr. Peter H. Bryce, Toronto, Ont.		
Dr. Elzéar Pelletier, <i>Secretary</i> , Montreal, P. Q.		
Dr. Eduardo Licéaga, Mexico, Mexico.	}	MEXICO.
Dr. Jesus E. Monjarás, San Luis Potosi, Mexico.		
Dr. Jose Ramirez, <i>Secretary</i> , Mexico, Mexico.		
Dr. Samuel W. Abbott, Boston, Mass.	}	U. S.
Dr. A. G. Young, Augusta, Me.		
Dr. Cressy L. Wilbur, <i>Secretary</i> , Lansing, Mich.		

The Commissioners for the United States request the coöperation of all societies and individuals interested in obtaining uniform and thoroughly comparable mortality statistics, and especially desire suggestions as to needed changes in the classification. It is urged that all who may be willing to assist in the work to notify the Commission at as earlier a date as possible, so that their names can be registered and all necessary information can be sent to them. Medical journals are requested to bring this announcement to the attention of the profession, and secretaries of societies are likewise asked to present the same to their organizations.

A pamphlet containing the official version of the classification, and showing the inclusion of terms, will be ready for distribution about January 1, 1899, and will be sent to all who may signify their desire to aid in the work of revision. A few copies of the classification as

adopted in Michigan, showing the general arrangement of the system but not the details of inclusion, are still on hand, and will be sent as long as they last to those who desire them. They will serve to convey a general idea of the plan of classification. Correspondence is solicited with all interested in the preparation of a thoroughly satisfactory classification of causes of death, and the amendments and suggestions of registrars and statisticians in other countries, even those continuing to use different systems of classification, are desired. If correspondents will kindly suggest names of persons or societies who would probably take part in this work, the favor will be appreciated. Marked copies of any publications referring to the work of revision are requested.

It is requested that all communications be sent to Cressy L. Wilbur, M.D., Secretary U. S. Commission, Lansing, Michigan.

BIRTH RATE IN ENGLAND.

Is the Birth-rate Still Falling? By R. H. Hooker, M.A. In *Manchester Statistical Society Transactions*. Session 1897-98. Pp. 101-126.

Eminent authorities have maintained within the last ten years that the birth rate in Europe and in the United States is rapidly declining. This view, however, has recently been questioned. Mr. Hooker contends that it is not tenable so far as the birth rate of England is concerned. He endeavors to show, first, that the marriage rate, after remaining at a stationary average level until the early seventies, fell abruptly between the years 1873 and 1879, and that it has since remained stationary; and, secondly, that the present steadiness in the marriage rate points to a cessation in the decline of the birth rate. By birth rate and marriage rate Mr. Hooker means throughout the number of births and marriages per 1000 of the total population.

A comparison of the expert curve and marriage rate shows that until 1876 the two rose and fell together, but that from 1877-79 the rate fell abruptly, while the expert curve, after falling sharply from 1873-76, "shows a decidedly slackened downward movement, the natural consequence of which should be a slackening of the fall in the